

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03401 271006Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----088638 280522Z /15

R 270909Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 952  
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3401

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

NEA FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY MIKLOS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OCON

SUBJ: JANUARY 1979 SOUTH ASIA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

1. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MY COLLEAGUES AT INFO ADDRESSEE POSTS, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE TIME FOR OUR NEXT CONFERENCE OF SOUTH ASIA CHIEFS OF MISSION AND THEIR WIVES WOULD BE IN THE THIRD OR FOURTH WEEK OF JANUARY AT COLOMBO.

2. DRAWING ON OUR EXPERIENCE AT OUR DECEMBER 1977 SOUTH ASIA COM GATHERING IN KATHMANDU, WE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:

A. NOTING DELHI EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL THAT INDO-US TALKS AT DEPUTY SECRETARY LEVEL BE HELD IN DELHI IN LATTER PART OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JANUARY, WE EXTEND A CORDIAL INVITATION TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER TO JOIN US EVEN IF FOR ONLY PART OF THE SESSION. INFORMAL, EXCLUSIVELY IN-HOUSE NATURE OF GATHERING MAKES PRESENCE OF AIDES UNNECESSARY.

B. WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JACK MIKLOS WILL BE WITH US FOR ALL WORKING SESSIONS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY COVER AT LEAST FOUR DAYS. AIRLINE SCHEDULES

WILL PROBABLY CAUSE SOME COLLEAGUES TO ARRIVE EARLIER, AND OTHERS STAY LATER, WITH ALL PRESENT FOR CORE FOUR-DAY PERIOD OF MEETINGS.

C. WE REQUEST THAT FUNDS BE AUTHORIZED FOR THE TRAVEL OF WIVES TO ATTEND THE SOUTH ASIA COM CONFERENCE, TO MANIFEST THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY WIVES TO THE EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS OF OUR MISSION BY PERFORMING WORK ON BEHALF OF THE USG. AS PART OF THEIR ACTUAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE DIPLOMATIC WORK OF OUR MISSIONS, OUR WIVES ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON:

- THE STATUS OF SPOUSES IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE;
- THE ROLE OF FAMILY LIAISON OFFICES;
- THE GROWING PROBLEM OF LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD FOR SPOUSES;
- THE WHOLE QUESTION OF A "BILL OF RIGHTS" FOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING THE NEED AT POSTS FOR PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING.

MOREOVER, THEY MAY SPEND MORE TIME THAN THEIR HUSBANDS WITH KEY MINISTERS, BEING USUALLY SEATED NEXT TO THEM AT DINNERS. AS A RESULT, KNOWLEDGEABLE SPOUSES CAN BE A GREAT HELP.  
WRIGGINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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